

CLAIMS:

1. A method for processing network management data in a network management system which generates events, for presentation in an event list to a user, when event conditions are detected during the monitoring of a network, the method comprising receiving network management data relating to an event condition, and determining whether a predetermined number of equivalent events have been generated in a preceding time period.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, if it is determined that the predetermined number of equivalent events have been generated in the preceding time period, the method further comprises generating a recurring event.

3. A method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising receiving data relating to a subsequent occurrence of the event condition, and preventing a subsequent event from being presented in the event list to the user.

4. A method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising adding a time stamp to the event data of the recurring event, the time stamp indicating the time of the subsequent occurrence of the event condition.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the preceding time period is an immediately preceding predetermined time period.

6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein data relating to an event is recorded in an event storage and includes the time of the event, the step of determining whether a predetermined number of equivalent events have been generated in a preceding time period comprising: determining the number of equivalent events in the event storage having a time within the predetermined time period, and comparing the determined number with the predetermined number.

7. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, if it is determined that a predetermined number of equivalent events have been generated in the preceding time period, the method places one of the equivalent events in a recurring state and prevents the received data relating to the event condition from being presented in the event list to the user.

8. A method for processing network management data in a network management system which generates events, for presentation in an event list to a user, when event conditions are detected during the monitoring of a network, the method comprising receiving network management data relating to an event condition; determining whether the monitored characteristic for the event condition is in a recurring state, and processing the data according to whether the monitored characteristic for the event condition is in a recurring state.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the step of determining whether the monitored characteristic for the event condition is in a recurring state comprises considering whether a recurring event in relation to the event condition is present in the event list, and if so, determining that the monitored characteristic for the event condition is in a recurring state.

10. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein, if it is determined that the monitored characteristic for the event condition is in a recurring state, the method further comprises determining whether the event condition has occurred more than a first predetermined number of times in a first preceding time period.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein, if it is determined that the event condition has occurred more than the first predetermined number of times in the first preceding time period, the method further comprises preventing the received data relating to the event condition from being presented in the event list to the user.

12. A method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising adding to event data of the event in the recurring state the time of the received data relating to the event condition.

5 13. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein, if it is determined that the event condition has not occurred more than the first predetermined number of times in the first immediately preceding time period, the method further comprises generating an event for presentation in the event list to the user.

10 14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the generated event is not a recurring event.

15 15. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein if it is determined that the monitored characteristic for the event condition is not in a recurring state, the method further comprises determining whether a second predetermined number of equivalent events have been generated in a second preceding time period.

20 16. A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein, if it is determined that the second predetermined number of equivalent events have been generated in the second preceding time period, the method further comprises generating a recurring event.

25 17. A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein, after the step of generating a recurring event, the method further comprises receiving data relating to a subsequent occurrence of the event condition, and preventing a subsequent event from being presented in the event list to the user.

30 18. A method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising, after the step of receiving data relating to a subsequent occurrence of the event condition, adding a time stamp to the event data of the recurring event, the time stamp indicating the time of the subsequent occurrence of the event condition.

19. A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein, if it is determined that the second predetermined number of equivalent events have not been generated in the second preceding time period, the method further comprises generating an event for presentation in the event list to the user.

20. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the first and/or second preceding time period is an immediately preceding predetermined time period.

21. A computer readable medium including a computer program for carrying out the method as defined in claim 1.

22. A computer program for processing network management data in a network management system which generates events, for presentation in an event list to a user, when event conditions are detected during the monitoring of a network, the program comprising a program step receiving network management data relating to an event condition for determining whether a predetermined number of equivalent events have been generated in a preceding time period.

23. A network management apparatus for monitoring a network and for processing network management data and generating events, for presentation in an event list to a user, when event conditions are detected, the apparatus comprising a processor for receiving network management data relating to an event condition, and for determining whether a predetermined number of equivalent events have been generated in a preceding time period

24. A network management apparatus for monitoring a network and for processing network management data and generating events, for presentation in an event list to a user, when event conditions are detected, the apparatus comprising a processor for receiving network management data relating to an event condition and for determining whether the monitored characteristic for the event condition is in a

recurring state, and processing the data according to whether the monitored characteristic for the event condition is in a recurring state.

10  
20  
30  
40  
50  
60  
70  
80  
90  
100  
110  
120  
130  
140  
150  
160  
170  
180  
190  
200  
210  
220  
230  
240  
250  
260  
270  
280  
290  
300  
310  
320  
330  
340  
350  
360  
370  
380  
390  
400  
410  
420  
430  
440  
450  
460  
470  
480  
490  
500  
510  
520  
530  
540  
550  
560  
570  
580  
590  
600  
610  
620  
630  
640  
650  
660  
670  
680  
690  
700  
710  
720  
730  
740  
750  
760  
770  
780  
790  
800  
810  
820  
830  
840  
850  
860  
870  
880  
890  
900  
910  
920  
930  
940  
950  
960  
970  
980  
990  
1000